

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7084
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6880

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: REGROUPING OF RIGHT OF CENTER PARTIES IN RESPONSE TO
OPPOSITION UNITY EFFORTS

SUMMARY: A LEADER OF FRAGA'S POLITICAL PARTY TOLD EMBASSY
OFFICERS SEPT 8 THAT RIGHT OF CENTER AND RIGHT WING
PARTIES WER SCHEDULING PRIVATE MEETING IN COMING WEEK
TO UNIFY THE EFFORTS TO INSURE THAT RIGHT OF CENTER
COALITION WINS MAJORITY IN FUTURE ELECTIONS. MEANWHILE,
PREMIER HAS MET WITH LEADERS OF GROUPS INVOLVED
IN PAST FEW DAYS. END SUMMARY.

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1. DURING CALL SEPT 8 ON RAFAEL PEREZ ESCOLAR,

PRESIDENT OF REFORMA DEMOCRATICA, EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE TOLD THAT THE RIGHT OF CENTER AND RIGHT WING GROUPS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FUERZA NUEVA BUT INCLUDING FERNANDEZ DE LA MORA'S UNE WOULD HOLD PRIVATE MEETING IN COMING WEEK FOR PURPOSE OF COORDINATING STRATEGY TO MEET CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY PLATAJUNTA. THE GROUPS INVOLVED INCLUDED REFORMA DEMOCRATICA WHOSE REAL LEADER IS FORMER MINISTER FRAGA IRIBANE, UDE, ANEPA, AND UDPE WHOSE FIRST LEADER WAS THE PRESENT PREMIER. ACCORDING TO PEREZ, THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GROUPS INVOLVED IS TO COORDINATE EFFORTS TO INSURE A RIGHT OF CENTER MAJORITY AS THE OUTCOME OF SPAIN'S FIRST POST-FRANCO ELECTIONS. UNION OF THE RIGHT, HE SAID, IS THE INEVITABLE RESULT OF THE UNION OF THE LEFT. MOREOVER, THE RIGHT HAS ADVANTAGES SUCH AS THE RELATIVE ABSENCE OF PERSONAL RIVALRIES, (SAID PEREZ ESCOLAR), IDEOLOGICAL FINE-TUNING AND SLOGANS, SUPERIOR GRASP OF THE REAL ISSUES AND CAPABILITY OF DIRECTING THE STATE APPARATUS. PEREZ SAID THAT FRAGA HAD AGREED TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE GROUPING HIS OWN THINK-TANK AND INFRASTRUCTURE SET UP UNDER GODSA. THE PREVAILING VIEW AMONG ALL THESE GROUPS IS THAT THE LEFT OPPOSITION REPRESENTED IN THE PLATAJUNTA IS NOT PREPARED TO GOVERN TODAY AND THAT THE MAJORITY OF SPANARDS SUPPORT A CENTER OR RIGHT OF CENTER POSITION.

2. IN THE PAST FEW DAYS SUAREZ, ACCOMPANIED BY OSORIO, HAS SEEN ALMOST ALL OF THE LEADERS OF THE GROUPS WHICH WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE FUTURE RIGHT WING COALITION. THEY LUNCHEDED WITH FERNANDEZ DE MORA SEPT 7 AND WITH ANEPA LEADERS SEPT 8 WHEN THEY ALSO TALKED WITH FRAGA. THE MAIN ABSENTEE FROM THE PREMIER'S RECENT MEETINGS FROM BOTH THE LEFT AND RIGHT HAS BEEN SILVA MUNOZ WHOSE LEADERSHIP OF THE UDE HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY OSORIO'S PRESENCE IN THE GOVT.

3. COMMENT: THE PLATAJUNTA'S SUMMIT SEPT 4 SEEMS TO HAVE TRIGGERED A CENTER-RIGHT RESPONSE IN KIND. IT STRIKES US THAT FRAGA, WHO HAS MADE A "RE-ENTRY" INTO POLITICS WITH A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN BARCELONA, MAY FEEL THAT HIS SUPERIOR ORGANIZATION (NOT TO MENTION HIS REDOUBTABLE CONFIDENTIAL

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PERSONAL QUALITIES) SHOULD ENABLE HIM TO LEAD A CENTER RIGHT COALITION. FRAGA ALSO WILL BEGIN PUBLISHING SEPT 10 A SERIES OF SEVEN POLITICAL ARTICLES IN ABC. HE OBVIOUSLY HOPES TO BE THE MAN TO COME OUT ON TOP ON ANY FUTURE RIGHT OF CENTER COALITION EVEN THOUGH OTHERS HAVE OTHER IDEAS ABOUT WHO MIGHT LEAD SUCH A COALITION. IN ANY CASE, WHILE THE LEFT AND CENTER LEFT HAVE ATTRACTED MOST OF THE MEDIA ATTENTION IN RECENT WEEKS, THE CENTER

RIGHT HAS ALSO BEEN BUSY AND SEEMS DETERMINED NOT TO
ALLOW THE LEFT OPPOSITION TO DOMINATE THE POLITICAL SCENE.
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